

Japan's Resource Circulation Strategy for Plastics (May 2019)


Background

- ◆ Low rate of plastic waste usage and environmental pollution from marine plastics etc. as global issues
- ◆ Japan has taken the lead of domestic treatment and 3Rs in addition to making global contributions. On the other hand, challenges such as the second highest amount of plastic container and packaging waste per capita and import restrictions in Asian countries

Key Strategies

Basic Principle: "3Rs + Renewable"

[Milestones]

Reduce etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ Reduce the use of single-use plastics (“valuing” such as mandatory charge on plastic bags etc.)➢ Promote the development and use of substitutes for Petroleum based plastics		<Reduce> (1) Cumulative suppression of 25% of single-use plastics by 2030
Recycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ Easy-understanding and effective separate collection and recycling of plastic resources➢ Thorough land collection of fishing equipment etc.➢ Minimize costs and maximize the effective use of resources through collaboration and overall optimization➢ Development of domestic resource circulation system given the embargoes of Asian countries➢ Fair and optimized recycling system which promotes innovation		<Reuse/Recycle> (2) Reusable/recyclable design by 2025 (3) Reuse/recycle 60% of containers and packaging by 2030 (4) Effective use of 100% of used plastics by reuse and recycling etc. by 2035
Recycled materials Bio-plastics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ Improve usage potential (support technical innovation and infrastructure development)➢ Measures to stimulate demand (green public procurement, usage incentives etc.)➢ Handling of chemical ingredient information for recycling➢ Use bio-based plastics such as for burnable waste bags➢ Bio-plastic introduction roadmap/venous system management integration		<Recycling and Bio-based Plastics> (5) Double the use of recycled content by 2030 (6) Introduce about 2 million tons of bio-based plastics by 2030
Marine Plastic Measures	Aimed for the prevention of marine pollution caused by the outflow of plastic waste (marine plastic zero emission) <ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ Eradicate littering, illegal dumping, and proper disposal➢ Recovery of coastal drift items etc.➢ Understand the actual state of marine waste (advanced monitoring methods)➢ Microplastic discharge suppression measures (thorough reduction of microbeads in scrub products by 2020 etc.)➢ Promote alternative innovation		
International Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ Support effective measures of developing nations (international cooperation and business development through exporting order-made packaging of Japan’s soft and hard infrastructure and technology etc.)➢ Construction of global monitoring and research network (marine plastic distribution, study of ecological impacts etc., standardization of monitoring methods etc.)		
Infrastructure Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ Establishment of social systems (soft and hard recycling infrastructure and supply chain structuring)➢ Technology development (renewable resource substitutes, innovative recycling technologies, consumer lifestyle innovation)➢ Study and research (impact of microplastics, discharge conditions, discharge suppression measures)➢ Collaboration (develop “Plastics Smart” to bring efforts under one flag)➢ Promote resource circulation related industries➢ Information infrastructure (ESG investment, ethical consumption)➢ Infrastructure for overseas expansion		

- ◆ Not only solve worldwide resource and environmental issues, including the Asia-Pacific Region, but also realise economic growth and employment creation
⇒ Contribute to sustainable development
- ◆ Promote necessary investment and innovation (in technology and consumer lifestyle) by aiming to achieve milestones through collaboration with all the citizens

This Act addresses whole lifecycle of plastics(i.e., from designing products to disposing plastic waste) and involves all stakeholders in promoting “3R+Renewable”and increasing circularity

■ Background

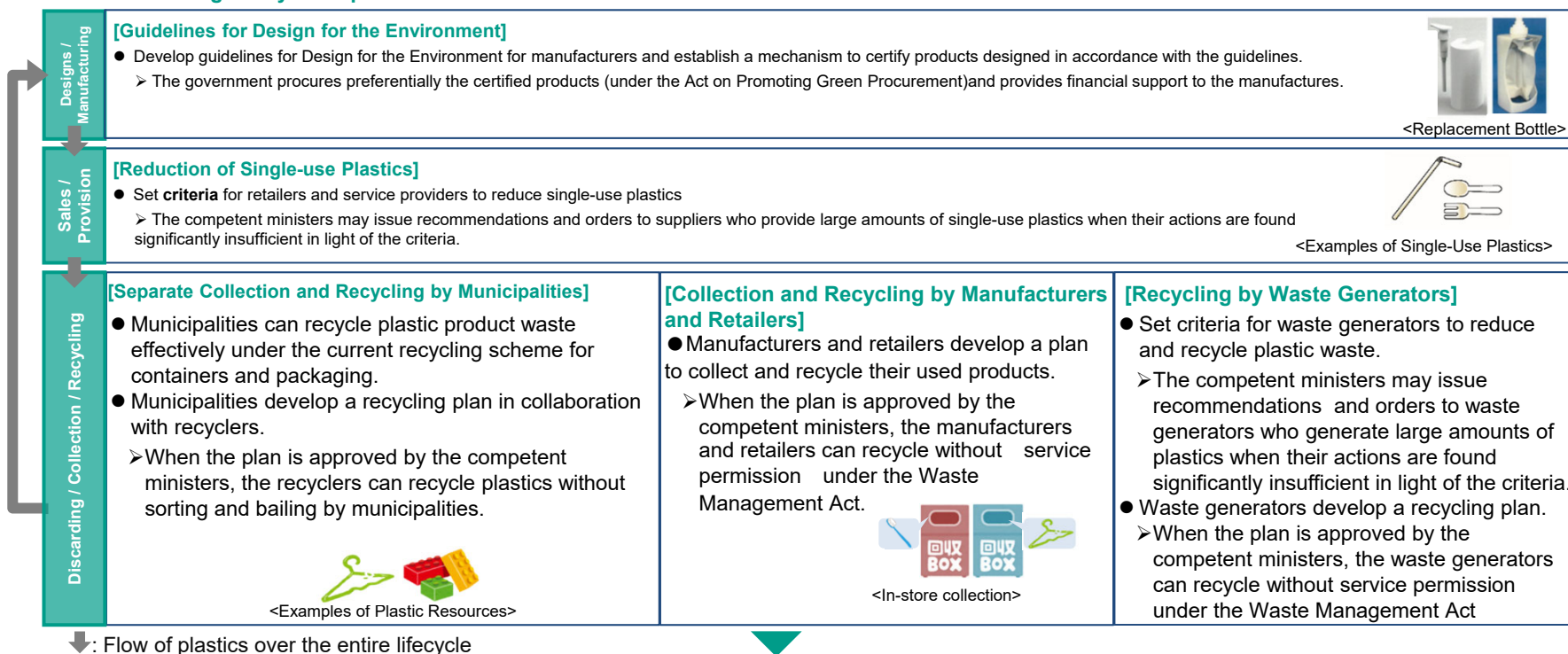
- In response marine plastic pollution, climate change, and foreign waste import regulations, domestic **circulation of plastic resources** is increasingly important. Since plastics are used in many varieties of products, **circulation system for plastics** needs to be **enhanced comprehensively**.

■ Main contents

1. Basic Policy

- To promote circulation of plastics in a comprehensive and planned way, basic policy includes:
 - Design for the Environment by manufacturers
 - Reduction of single-use plastics by retailers and service providers
 - Separation, collection and recycling of plastic waste by municipalities and private sectors

2. Measures along life cycle of plastics



Transition to circular economy through advancing circulation of resources

(1) Designing and Manufacturing Stages

To attain a society in which **environmentally friendly products** are certified by the government and consumers can choose

- Structures and materials (such as the use of alternative materials and recycled plastics) are clearly indicated as **design guidelines** for manufacturers and others.

Targets all products that use plastic.

<Structure>

(1) Reduction of amount

(2) Simplification of packaging

(3) Long-term use and long service-life

(4) Use of components that are easy to reuse or re-use of components

(5) Use of single material

(6) Easier disassembly and separation

(7) Easier collection and conveyance

(8) Easier crushing and incineration

<Materials>

(1) Alternatives to materials other than plastic

(2) Use of materials that are easy to recycle

(3) Use of recycled plastics

(4) Use of bioplastics



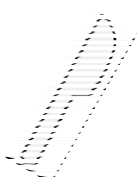



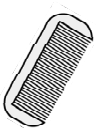



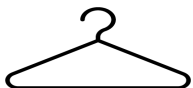

<Product Lifecycle Evaluation>

- The government certifies products that are particularly good compared to similar products**, and the government takes the initiative to procure certified products.

Determined separately for each product field.

(2) Sales and Provision Stages

Streamlining the use of **disposable plastics**, and accelerating lifestyle transformations

Target Products					Target Industry
Fork 	Spoon 	Table Knife 	Stirrer 	Straws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various product retailers (including those without stores): General supermarkets, department stores, and the like • Food and beverage retailers (excluding vegetable and fruit retailers, meat retailers, fresh fish retailers and liquor retailers, and including those with no stores): convenience stores, grocery stores, western confectionery stores, and others • Hotel Industry: Hotels, inns, and the like • Eating and Drinking Establishments: Restaurants, coffee shops, and the like • Take-out and delivery catering services: Food delivery, and the like
Hair Brush 	Comb 	Razor 	Shower Cap 	Toothbrush 	
Hangers 		Clothes covers 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various product retailers (including those without stores): General supermarkets, department stores, and the like • Laundry Industry: Cleaners, and the like

* Even if the main business does not fall under the above covered business types, if part of the business activities fall under the above covered business types, the scope of the business is targeted.

- **Set goals**, implement initiatives according to plan to achieve them.
- Select **and implement initiatives such as point redemption, charging, and conversion to alternative materials**.
- The requirement for large-volume suppliers subject to recommendations is 5 tons or more per year (in the case of retail stores, this corresponds to a business scale of about 10 stores).

(3) Discarding/collection/recycling Stages

Promote **efficient collection and recycling** of all plastics

		Until Now	From Now
Home	Container Packaging	Recycle	Recycle
	Plastic Products	Burnable Waste and Others	Recycle
Industry Waste		Proper Treatment	3R

<Conceptual View of Separate Collection of Plastic Resources by Municipalities>

**Same Material but Recyclability
Differs;
Difficult to Understand**



Container
Packaging
(Recycle)



Plastic Products
(Burnable Waste
and Others)

**Easy-to-
understand
Separation**

**Collection of Plastic
Resources**



Plastic Resources
(Recycle)

Apply the **support measures** to the 2022 budget request so that **the initiatives for business operators, municipalities and consumers** can be implemented smoothly and properly.

The government will undertake steady system operations.

Aim for a circular economy business market of more **than ¥80 trillion yen** by 2030.